CHARLTON COMICS
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NO. 4
SEPT.

THE PEACEMAKER

THE PEACEMAKER LOOKS BACK ON HOW IT ALL BEGAN...

THE ORIGIN OF THE PEACEMAKER

THE FIGHTING 5 in PART I of "THE CARD CARRIER"

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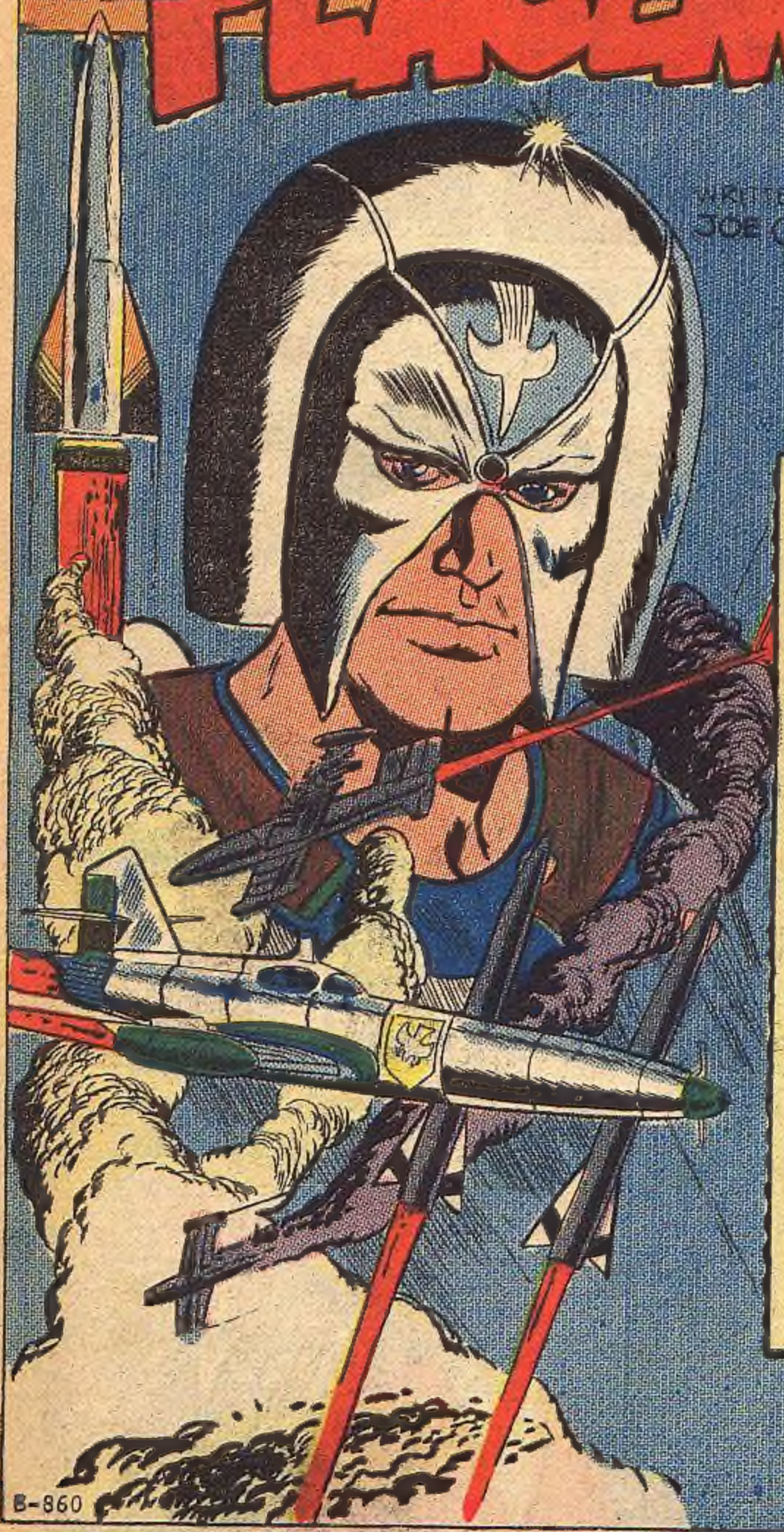
OUR WORLD IS POPULATED BY MEN WHO WISH TO LIVE IN PEACE... THEY ARE NOT VIOLENT BY NATURE... AND THEY ARE NATURAL PREY TO THE TWISTED CREATURES WHO SEEK WEALTH AND POWER-EVEN IF IT MEANS MISERY AND DEATH TO THEIR FELLOWS!
BUT, MANKIND HAS FOUND A **CHAMPION**... A COURAGEOUS AND RESOURCEFUL MAN WHO HAS DEFEATED THE PREDATORS... HIS GENIUS HAS CREATED GREATER WEAPONS THAN ANY FOUND IN THE HANDS OF THE SUPER-CRIMINALS AND IN HIS HEART - HE HAS THE COURAGE TO USE THEM! WE HAVE COME TO KNOW THIS MAN AS...

THE PEACEMAKER

WRITTEN BY JOE GILL

EDITED BY DICK GIORDANO

ILLUSTRATED BY PAT BOYETTE!



HE DOESN'T KNOW IT YET, BUT THIS IS 'THE PEACEMAKER'S' NEW SECRETARY – NORA O'ROURKE, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN - BUT BORN IN COUNTY CORK, IRELAND! DON'T LET THAT SHINER FOOL YOU! SHE'S A LADY, AND SHE'LL FIGHT ANY SUCH AND SUCH IN THE HOUSE WHO SAYS SHE AIN'T!

B-860

THE PEACEMAKER Vol. 3, No. 4, Sept., 1967, published bimonthly by Charlton Comics Group at Charlton Building, Derby, Conn. 06418. Second Class postage paid at Derby, Conn. 06418.

THE KNOWING ONES CALL THIS CHATEAU 'THE PEACE PALACE' FOR THIS IS WHERE CHRISTOPHER SMITH DOES HIS WORK...

... WHICH YOU ALL KNOW IS THE PREVENTION OF WAR AND THE PUNISHMENT OF THE VICIOUS CRIMINALS WHO WOULD DESTROY MANKIND..!!

HMM... ONLY ONE APPLICANT FOR THE SECRETARIAL POSITION! VERY WELL... SEND HER IN, PAUL!

I AM NORA O'ROURKE, MR. SMITH!

I UNDERSTOOD THAT APPLICANTS WERE ENROUTE FROM PARIS, BRUSSELS, AND LONDON! AND YET, YOU ALONE ARE HERE FOR THE JOB! HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR THAT, MISS O'ROURKE?

UNTIL I'M ON THE PAYROLL.. I DON'T HAVE TO ACCOUNT FOR ANYTHING, MR SMITH! BUT, SINCE YOU WERE GENTLEMAN ENOUGH NOT TO MENTION MY 'SHINER' I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW!

TRUE - OTHER GIRLS WERE ON THEIR WAY HERE... BUT THEN, WE WERE ALL THREATENED WITH VIOLENCE IF WE DID NOT WITHDRAW OUR APPLICATIONS!

AND WHO ISSUED THESE THREATS, MISS O'ROURKE?

A FEMALE... HERSELF AN APPLICANT FOR THIS JOB, I BELIEVE!

WELL, SHE HASN'T SHOWN UP! WERE ANY OF THESE THREATS CARRIED OUT?

I UNDERSTAND THERE WAS SOME INJURY TO THE OTHER GIRLS - YES! AND I HAD TO STOP A MAN WHO WAS PUTTING A BOMB IN MY DRESSING CASE!

AH.. ENTER THE SHINER!

HIS HEEL STRUCK ME WHEN I FLIPPED HIM WITH APPLIED JU-JITSU! YOU'LL FIND THAT LISTED ALONG WITH MY F.B.I. SECURITY CLEARANCE IN MY QUALIFICATIONS, MR. SMITH!

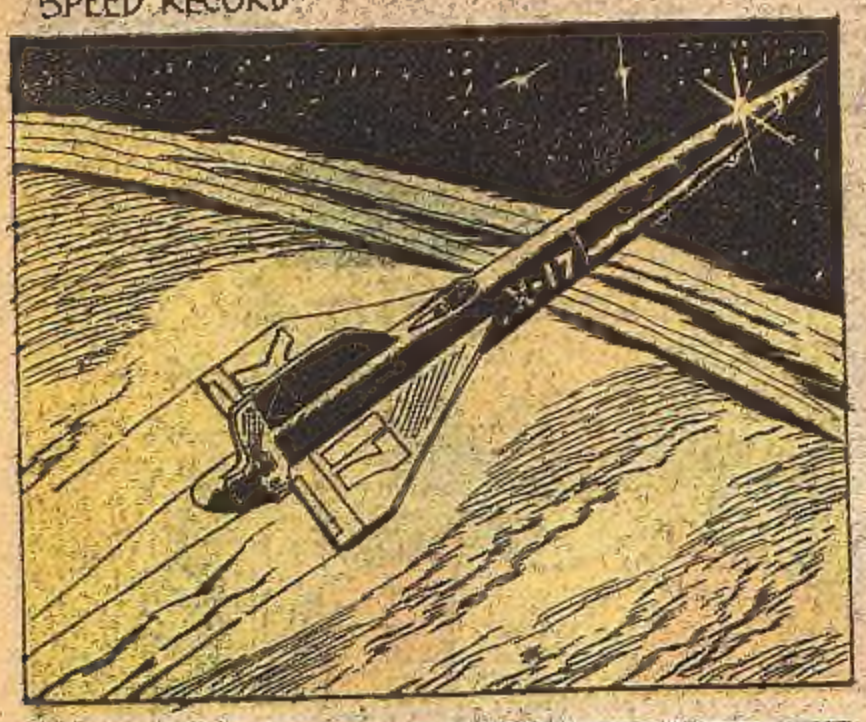
IF YOU'VE READ THEM AND ARE STILL INTERESTED, THEN I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE JOB!

TO UNDERSTAND THE JOB - YOU HAVE TO KNOW ABOUT ME! MY FATHER WAS AN ARMY OFFICER TURNED STATESMAN - MY MOTHER WAS A LABRATORY RESEARCHIST!

"THEY BOTH INFLUENCED MY LIFE! I MASTERED THE SCIENCES EARLY, AND MY THESIS ON INERTIAL GUIDANCE SYSTEMS IS THE PRINCIPLE IN USE AT CAPE KENNEDY RIGHT NOW!"

"MY FATHER'S INTERESTS IN FLYING FIGHTER PLANES, SPEAR-FISHING, ETC., COMPELLED ME TO LEARN MANY, MANY SKILLS!"

AS A SCIENTIST, I WAS ASKED BY THE AIR FORCE TO WORK WITH THE TEAMS EXPERIMENTING WITH THE ROCKET AIRCRAFT AT MODOC. I FLEW THE X-17 AT 5,140 M.P.H. AN UNOFFICIAL SPEED RECORD!



VERY IMPRESSIVE, MR. SMITH... BUT I'M SURE THERE IS MORE TO TELL...

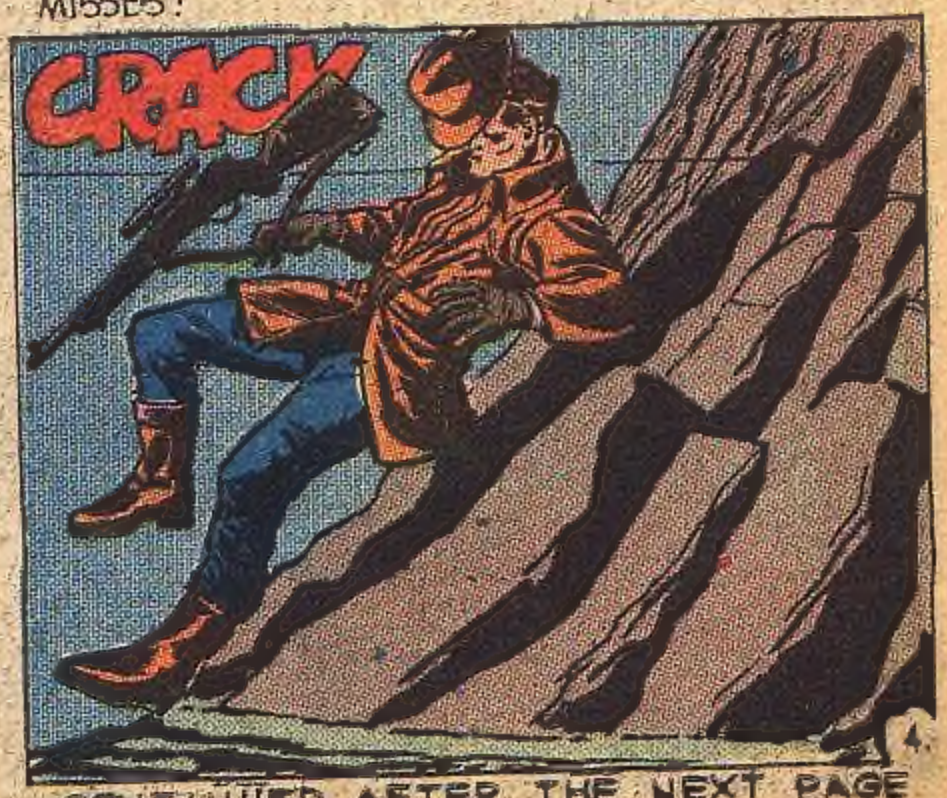
GET DOWN, MISS O'ROURKE!

NO, MR. SMITH! YOU WON'T SEE THE ASSASSIN AND....

I'LL FIND HIM!

IN THE INFRA-RED SCOPE, THE SNIPER STANDS OUT! CHRISTOPHER SMITH STEADIES THE RIFLE...

...AND FIRES! HE GETS HIS MAN, OF COURSE. CHRISTOPHER SMITH (THE PEACEMAKER) NEVER MISSES!



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ANOTHER ENEMY ATTEMPT, MR. SMITH?

YES, HE'S UP ON MOUNT ROUGE AT THE 9400 FOOT LEVEL! PICK HIM UP AND PROCESS HIM, PLEASE!

PROCESS? HOW COLD-BLOODED CAN YOU GET? HE IS DEAD, ISN'T HE?

I USED A MEDICATED PELLET WHICH STUNS INSTANTLY! PAUL WILL QUESTION HIM, AND THEN SEND HIM BACK TO HIS EMPLOYERS!

SELECTING A SECRETARY WHO WILL OF NECESSITY LEARN OF HIS IDENTITY AS 'THE PEACEMAKER' AND SHARE SECRETS UNKNOWN TO EVEN THE VETERAN MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF IN THE GRIM CITADEL IN THE ALPS IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE... HE CANNOT ARRIVE AT A DECISION HASTILY, SO MISS O'ROURKE IS INVITED TO DINE WITH THE MAN KNOWN TO THE WORLD AS CHRISTOPHER SMITH!

MR. SMITH - TIME IS VALUABLE TO US BOTH... SO I ASK - WHAT IS YOUR **REAL** WORK?

YOU ARE DIRECT AND COURAGEOUS! VERY WELL... AFTER DINNER I SHALL TAKE YOU INTO MY LABORATORY! THERE I WILL DETAIL MY SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL ACTIVITIES!

I'LL GO FIRST, NORA! GIVE ME THIRTY SECONDS, THEN ENTER!

YES, MR. SMITH!

CLOSE THE DOOR, MISS O'ROURKE!

THE...THE PEACEMAKER!

I'VE HEARD OF YOU, PEACEMAKER. YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR DESTROYING THE WAR MACHINE OF * PREMIER GEKK AND THE URANIUM MINE SLAVES IN THE URAL MOUNTAINS!

YES, I WAS INVOLVED IN THOSE INCIDENTS.. AS WELL AS MANY OTHERS! HERE YOU SEE SOME OF THE WEAPONS I HAVE DEVELOPED AND DESIGNED!... THE JET FIGHTER... THE ONE-MAN SUBMARINE... AND MY HELMET HAS A LASER-RAY!

* ISSUE #2 'THE ULTIMATUM'

MANY TIMES I PREFER TO INCAPACITATE MY ENEMIES... FOR THIS I USE MEDICATED PELLETS FIRED FROM CONVENTIONAL GUNS.. OR AN ODORLESS GAS EJECTED AT SUPERSONIC SPEED!

IT'S A LONELY LIFE FOR YOU! WHY DID YOU BECOME WHAT YOU ARE?

WHY? BECAUSE MAN IS CIVILIZED..GOVERNED BY LAW, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE MADMEN WHO WILL NOT OBEY THOSE LAWS, AND WILL NOT SUBMIT TO THE SANITY OF DIPLOMACY!

THE PEACEMAKER IS AN 'ACTION-BUFFER' BETWEEN THESE MADMEN AND GLOBAL WAR!

AWHILE AGO, NORA, YOU WERE SHOCKED WHEN YOU BELIEVED I HAD COLD BLOODEDLY TAKEN THE LIFE OF A FELLOW CREATURE BELIEVE ME... I **ABHOR** VIOLENCE PERHAPS MORE THAN YOU ...JUDGING BY THAT SHINER WHICH YOU DISPLAY! WHILE SERVING AS A PEACE ENVOY TO THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE HERE IN GENEVA, I LEARNED OF A PLOT BY ONE, **EMIL BORK**, TO START A BRUSHFIRE AMONG SMALL NATIONS TO CREATE A MARKET FOR THE ARMS WHICH HE HAD FOR SALE!

BORK, AN INGENIOUS, COLD BLOODED, SCOUNDREL, DEFIED ALL DIPLOMATIC MACHINERY!

THE UNITED STATES CANNOT STOP ME! WHEN THIS WAR BEGINS, THE WORLD WILL SCREAM IN OUTRAGE IF AMERICA INTERVENES! YOUR HANDS ARE TIED!

YOU'RE A FIEND, BORK!

I'VE DEDICATED MY LIFE TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE... BUT IF I REMAIN NON-VIOLENT, MILLIONS OF MEN WILL BE INVOLVED IN WAR!

"I HAD THE WEAPONS! IT HAD BEEN A HOBBY OF MINE IN THIS SECRET CHAMBER! NOW TO SAVE THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS, I'D HAVE TO RESORT TO THE VIOLENCE WHICH I DESPISED! SO FOR THE FIRST TIME, I DONNED THE ATTIRE OF 'THE PEACEMAKER'! USING MY OWN BELT-JETS, I CLOSED IN ON BORK'S JET BOMBER! BORK FIRED MISSILES AT ME - I REDIRECTED THEM - AND THE MAN WHO WOULD DESTROY MANKIND - DESTROYED ONLY HIMSELF!"

TO RULE ALL LIFE! I ENCOUNTERED

"HE CALLED HIMSELF THE COMMODORE! THE

THE COMMODORE HIMSELF HAD UNINTENTIONALLY SUPPLIED A POWERFUL EXPLOSIVE ...WHICH I RELEASED AS I SWAM AWAY!

"USING MY LASER-RAY TO SUPERHEAT IH INFAMOUS CRAFT, I GAVE THE CREW TIM

IN EACH CASE, NORA, I TRIED TO FIND NON-VIOLENT MEANS TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION!

MR. SMITH, I HAD SUSPICIONS WHEN I APPLIED FOR THIS POSITION

..BECAUSE I'VE HEARD OF THESE OCCURRENCES AND THERE WERE RUMORS OF A MYSTERIOUS PERSON WHO FIGURED IN THEM ALL!

[redacted]
GENERAL BELL LABORATORY PERSONNEL, AND THE OCEANIC RESEARCH TEAMS, I CAME UP WITH ONE NAME, CHRISTOPHER SMITH!

[redacted]

[redacted]
DIRECTLY TOWARD THE CHATEAU!

END PART ONE

PEACEMAKER PATTER

ADDRESS MAIL TO PEACEMAKER PATTER CHARLTON COMICS DERBY CONN 06418

Dear Editor:

I think PEACEMAKER is a fine example of the Charlton Revolution that has changed mediocrity to quality. I have one complaint, however: your apparent move to eliminate THE FIGHTIN' FIVE. Please continue them and replace Irv, but I implore you not with a woman. It would be nice if you maintained the originality of having the only team without a girl.

John Scanland
P.O. Box 87
Downieville, California

OOPS! We've already replaced Irv with a woman. There is one point I'd like to clear up! We enjoy publishing comics but publishing is a business venture. If a book is doing well, you continue publishing it. If it isn't doing well, you discontinue it! Simple? We've had much mail telling us how "stupid" we were to discontinue THE FIGHTIN' FIVE in their own mag. It should be obvious that if the "5" had been selling well, it wouldn't have been dropped. However, we kinda liked the character and decided to make some changes and hang onto it for a while longer as a companion feature and see what happens, rather than cast it into the comic-hero limbo!

Dear Editor:

Although this is the first time I am writing to your comic group (except for a subscription), I have in the past written to DC, Marvel and Mighty, and I know exactly how to express my point about PEACEMAKER, IT'S THE GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE I'VE EVER READ! It is not very often that such a dynamic discovery such as this is made in comic history! Never have I seen such magnificent drawing as that done by Pat Boyette. Because of this, The Peacemaker is right up there with Batman, Superman, Captain America, and Spiderman (my favorites!), not to mention Captain Atom and the new Blue Beetle! However, although the Fightin' Five are great, can't you use that space for the adventures of a new super-hero or for more letters or something?

Good luck on the beginning of Peacemaker, and please keep up the good work on the rest of your action-heroes!

Bill Wilson
1535 Oneida Drive
Jefferson Boro
Clairton, Pa.

P.S. Why not have the new Blue Beetle have his own comic? Even after only two issues of CA, I think he deserves it!

Thanks, Bill! If others agree with you, the Peacemaker is travelling in pretty good company.

There is a strong possibility that a new action-hero may make his debut in the pages of Peacemaker within the next couple of issues.

If you don't already know it, Blue Beetle has his own comic. The second issue should be on sale as you read this.

Dear Editor:

Wow! Never has there been such a character as the Peacemaker. For weeks now I've been trying to get my friends interested in Charlton's great action-heroes. They think of Charlton as Son of Vulcan and the old Blue Beetle. Flops both. But your new line is sure to change their minds.

Captain Atom is by far your best, but I'm not sure yet if I like his new costume.

Peacemaker is coming up fast for its brief appearance although I wish that it hadn't taken over THE FIGHTIN' 5. If possible, show both on the cover. Irv's death really shook me, but don't play God and bring him back.

The Sentinels is one of the finest you've ever shown. Have it share the cover with T-Bolt, huh?

Thunderbolt has improved immeasurably

Judomaster should share the cover with Sarge Steel. Tiger is great but the judo lessons in each issue aren't necessary.

FANTASTIC GIANTS is great. Keep it up.

Well, this is my check list of Charlton greats. Keep 'em comin' and I'll keep buyin'.

A fan for life,
Bill Mantlo
223-04 Murdock Avenue
Queens Village, N.Y.

We wish readers would keep an open mind with regards to our past "flops." Lotsa guys have picked themselves up and managed to get back into the fight... and won!

Dear Editor:

I do not like the Peacemaker. After reading THE PEACEMAKER #1 this is the only feeling I have. There just isn't anything in it that is praiseworthy.

First of all, there is the art. Mr. Boyette seems to lavish a lot of care on his art, and though the backgrounds are fair enough, the action stances good, and the idea of each panel is understood easily, the end result is poor. I guess that what it really amounts to is that I don't like his art style.

Another problem is the stories. They don't click. First of all, they are too short. One story each issue is enough. Also, the ideas are poor. They are stilted and uninteresting. Try for original plots.

While all of the above is important, the idea of this paragraph is much more important. The character of the Peacemaker is not plausible. The whole idea of "A man who loves peace so much that he is willing to fight for it!" is inconsistent. Someone like this wouldn't be. Such a person, if he really loved peace, would use passive resistance perhaps, but force? I think not.

And, there is the problem that I really don't follow the Peacemaker. I missed his first two appearances, and so am in the dark as to his powers. This is bad, but the fact that his powers are run-of-the-mill is worse. T-BOLT, JUDOMASTER and CAPT. ATOM have new ideas, or at least variations, on the super-hero concept, but PM doesn't.

True, this was your first issue, and usually first issues are rather poor; however, this one is bad. As far as I am concerned, you may as well junk THE PEACEMAKER.

Richard Mills
3035 Fairway Drive
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Which only goes to prove that you can't please everyone!

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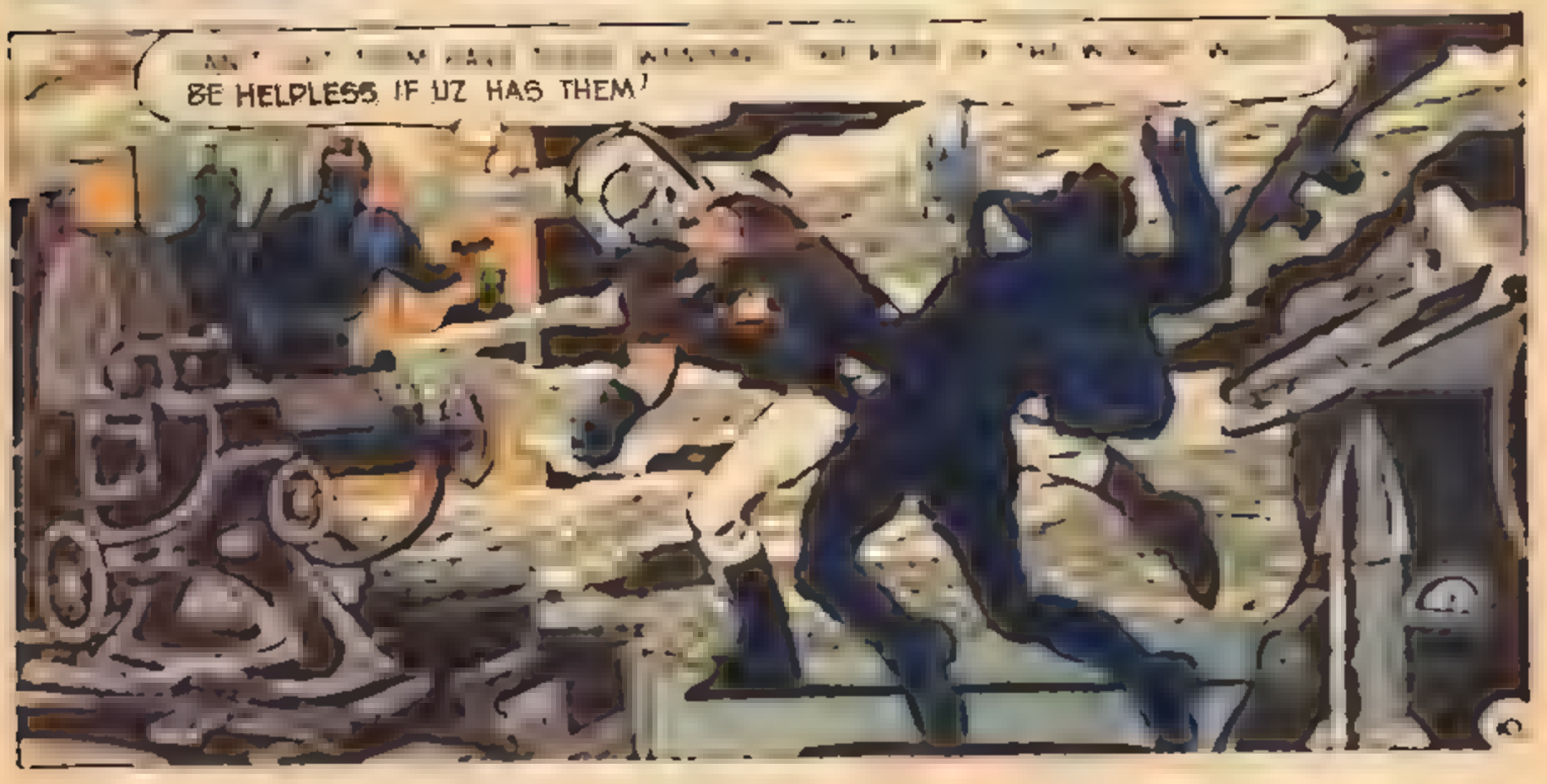
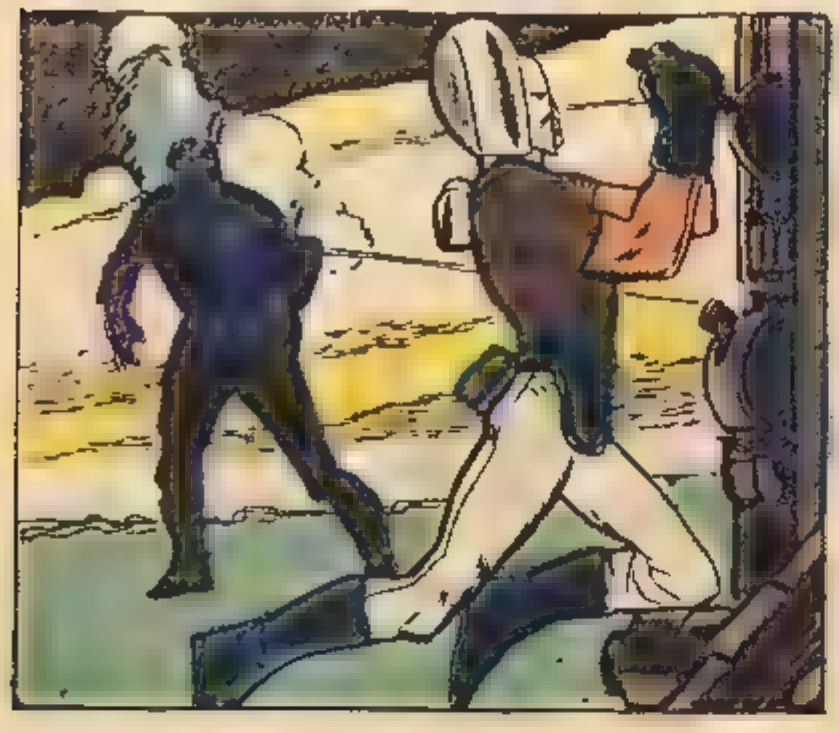
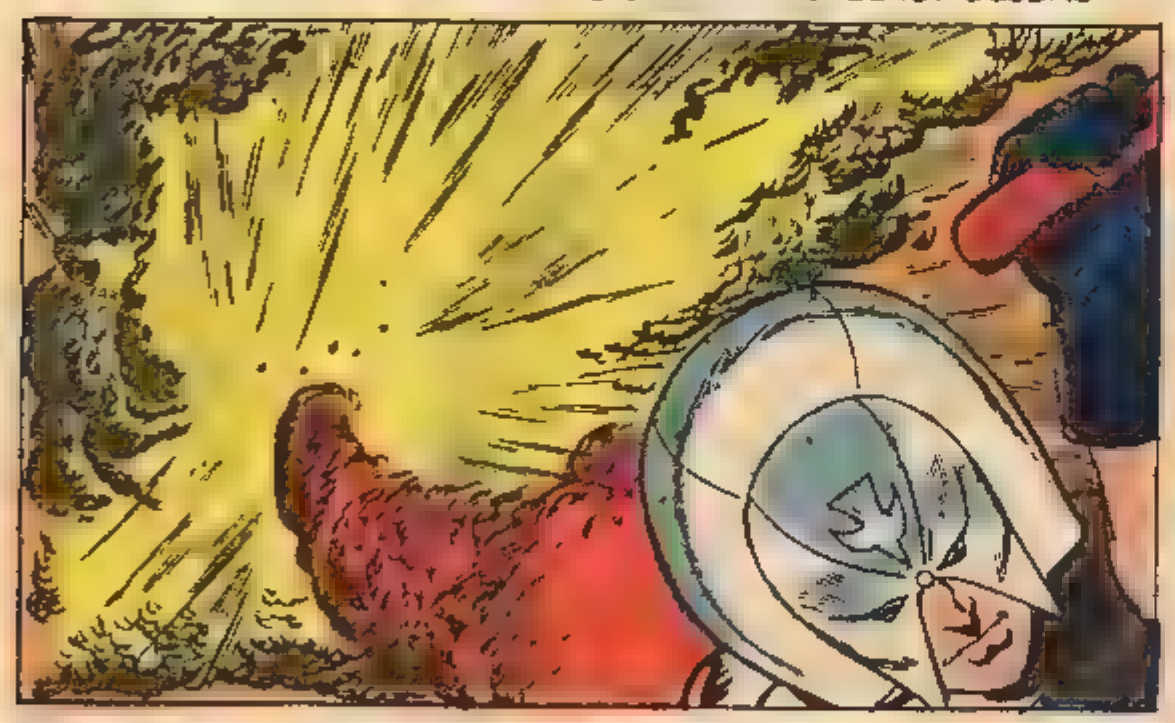
PART TWO THE HOSTAGE!

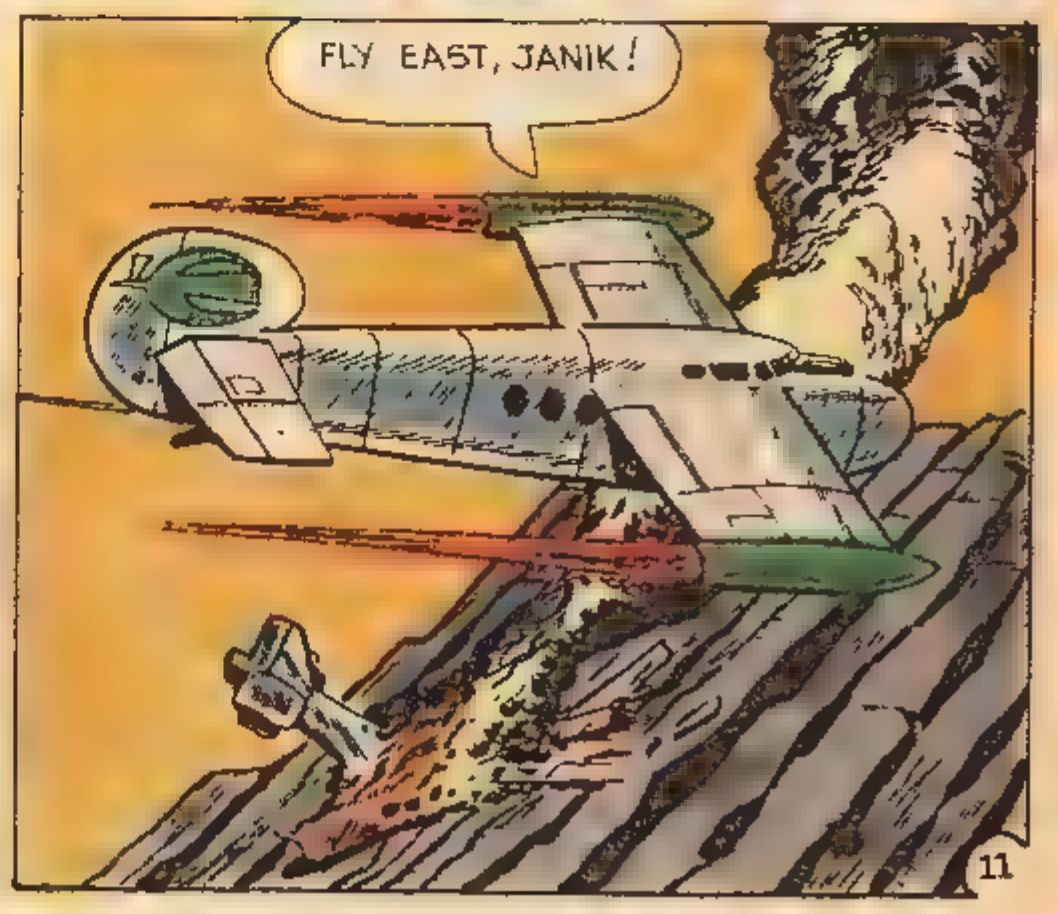


IF HE TAKES A BREATH HE'LL BE FINISHED . BUT THE PEACEMAKER KNOWS HE'L. BE UNCONSCIOUS IN ANOTHER FEW SECONDS SO HE PULLS *THE SWITCH!*



THE PEACEMAKER HAD ANTICIPATED A RAID LIKE THIS,. AND THE EXPLOSIVES SHATTER THE LABORATORY, DESTROYING HIS ARSENAL OF MODERN WEAPONS! BUT PEACEMAKER S ALREADY UNCONSCIOUS AS THE SHATTERING BLAST OCCURS!





I THINK WE SHOULD ALERT NATO, PAUL!

YES, MISS NORA! I'VE SEALED THE CHATEAU ..WHATEVER GAS IS OUTSIDE CAN'T REACH US HERE!

THEIR PRIMARY MISSION WAS TO KIDNAP PEACEMAKER...THEIR INTEREST IN THE WEAPONS WAS SECONDARY BUT WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP HIM NOW?

PEACEMAKER IS [illegible] COLONEL UZ!

DON'T LET HIM MOVE! HE'S CAPABLE OF [illegible] EVEN THOUGH HE'S APPARENTY UNARMED!

I'VE GOT ENOUGH EXPLOSIVES ON ME TO BLOW UP A FLEET OF PLANES LIKE THIS BUT IT'S WAIT

UNARMED? PEACEMAKER IS NEVER WITHOUT WEAPONS! FOR INSTANCE... OBSERVE..

PLASTIC IMPREGNATED WITH RDX WITH HIDDEN FUSE
LASER
NITROCELLULOSE UNDER R[illegible] CONDITIONS IS HIGHLY COMBUSTIBLE.
WHEN TINY VIAL BUILT INTO GLOVE IS CRUSHED-IT BECOMES A FIRE BOMB.
PLUS- SIDE ARM, [illegible] AND VARIOUS MINIATURE [illegible]
EACH HEEL IS PENTOLITE [illegible]
THE PEACEMAKER IS ALWAYS WELL ARMED!

I WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE, COLONEL UZ! YOU ARE TAKING ME TO YOUR BASE OF OPERATIONS! I HAD PLANNED TO VISIT IT VERY SOON ANYWAY!

IT WILL BE A ONE WAY JOURNEY!

EACH MOUNTAIN IS A VAST CAVE, PEACEMAKER! AND EACH CAVE SHELTERS THE MOST POTENT WEAPONS EVER DEVISED BY MAN!!

PERFECT CONDITION!

TO WORK!

COMBAT COSTS OVER A MILLION

POSSESSING THEM ARE FANTASTICALLY CARELESS ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH THEY ARE GUARDED!

MOVE... KILL HIM!

LEAVE... NOT FOR

THIS WEAPON! NOW THE TANK IS NEXT!

I AM SURPRISED PEACEMAKER! YOU'VE DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB!

ERY GOOD!

GUNNER!

RATTT

AS I WORK ON EACH WEAPON, I PLANT AN EXPLOSIVE IN THE AREA. VERY SOON I'LL DESTROY THIS CAVE... AND THEN ATTACK UZ IN HIS QUARTERS!

THEN, THERE'S A SIGNAL FROM THE TELEVIEWER. COL. UZ SPEAKS:

YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SATISFACTORY PEACEMAKER. I HAVE BEGUN DELIVERY OF THE REPAIRED ARMS AND VEHICLES! BUT I WISH TO INSURE YOUR CONTINUED COOPERATION!

I THOUGHT PERHAPS YOU MIGHT FEEL MORE LOYALTY TOWARD ME...IF YOU REALIZE THAT ANY DISAPPOINTMENT... WILL RESULT IN SEVERE DISCOMFORT TO MISS O'ROURKE

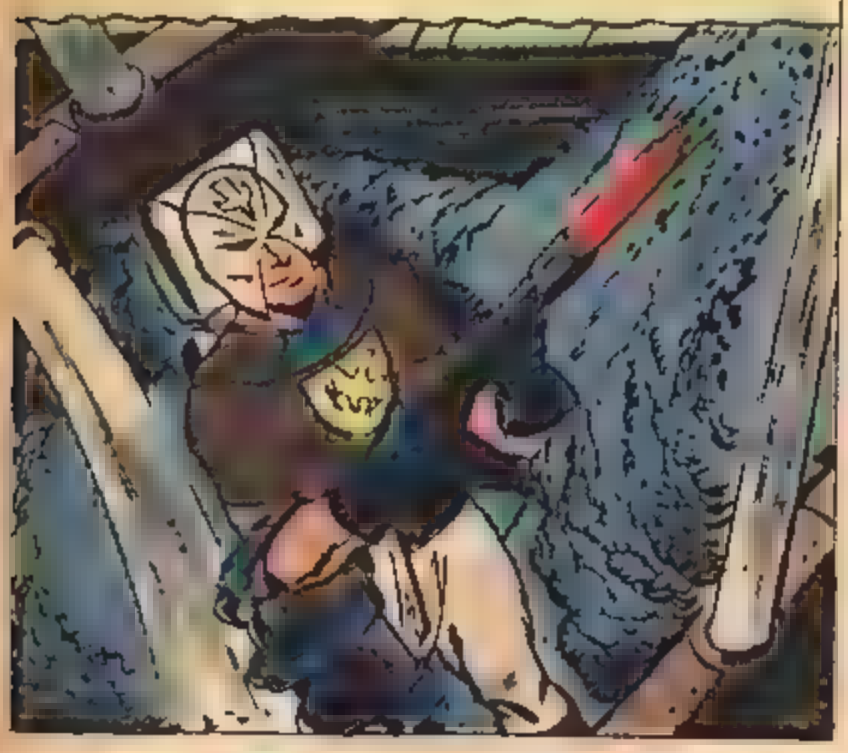
DO WHAT YOU'VE GOT TO DO, PEACEMAKER!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!

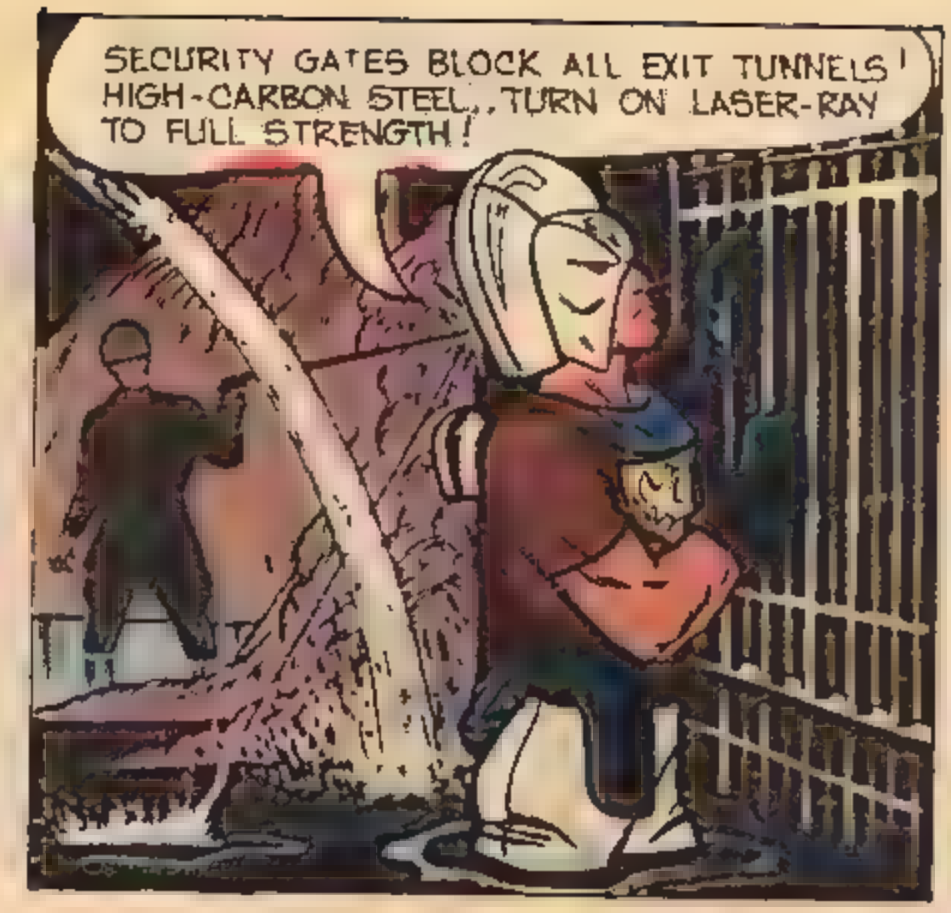
I'D PLANNED TO WAIT LET UZ BE DESTROYED BY THE WEAPONS I'D 'REPAIRED' BUT I'VE GOT TO ACT NOW!

HOW'S THIS FOR OPENERS?

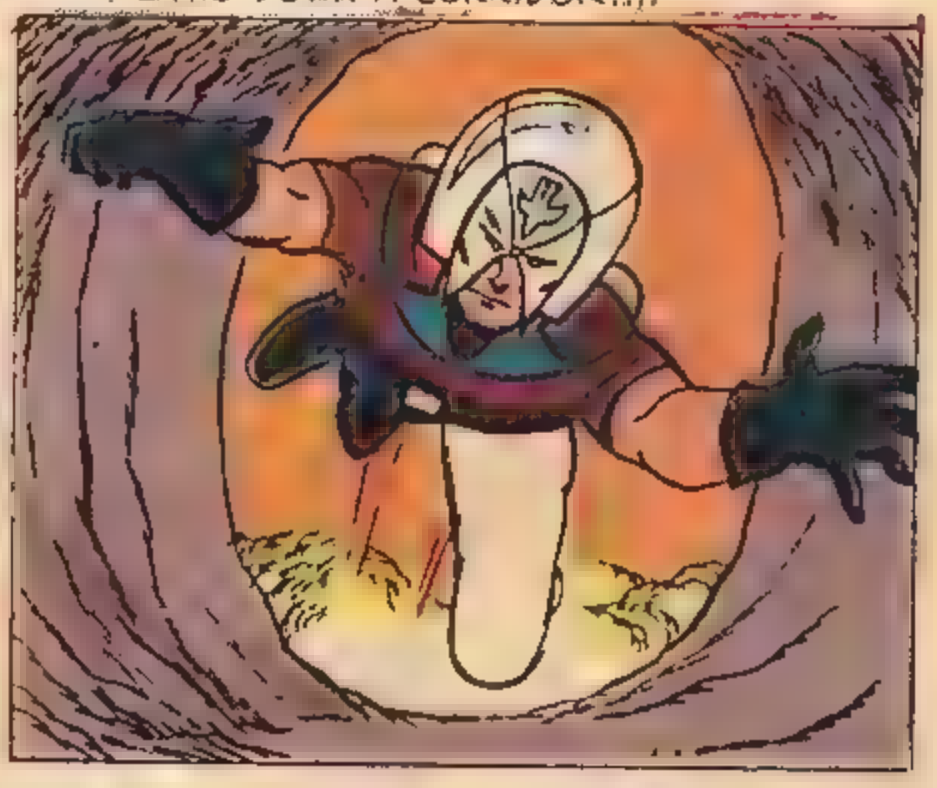
NEXT A FLAME-THROWER AIMED AT A FIRE CONTROL SWITCH BUILT INTO THE NETWORK OF PIPES TOUCHES OFF THE FLOODING DEVICES!



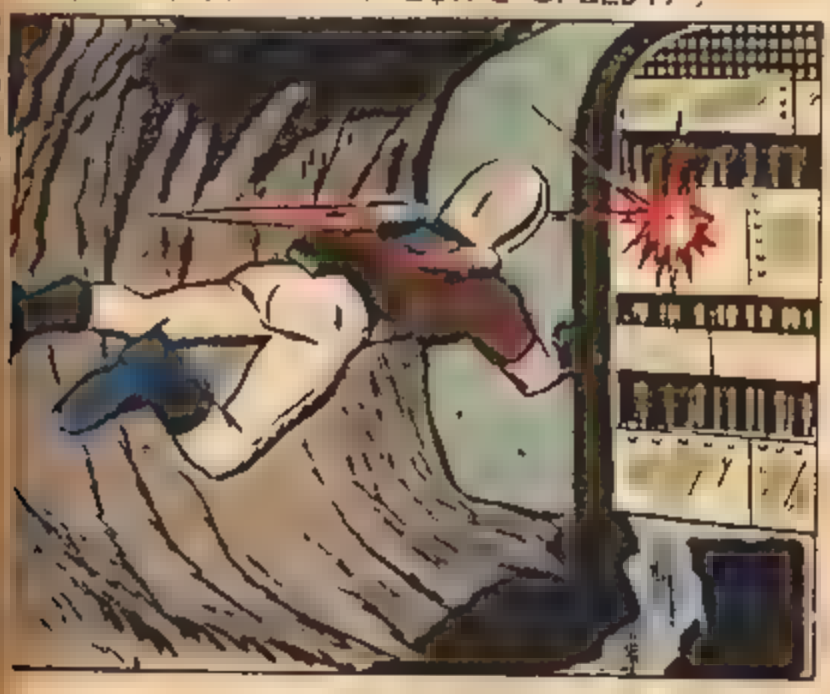
SECURITY GATES BLOCK ALL EXIT TUNNELS! HIGH-CARBON STEEL... TURN ON LASER-RAY TO FULL STRENGTH!

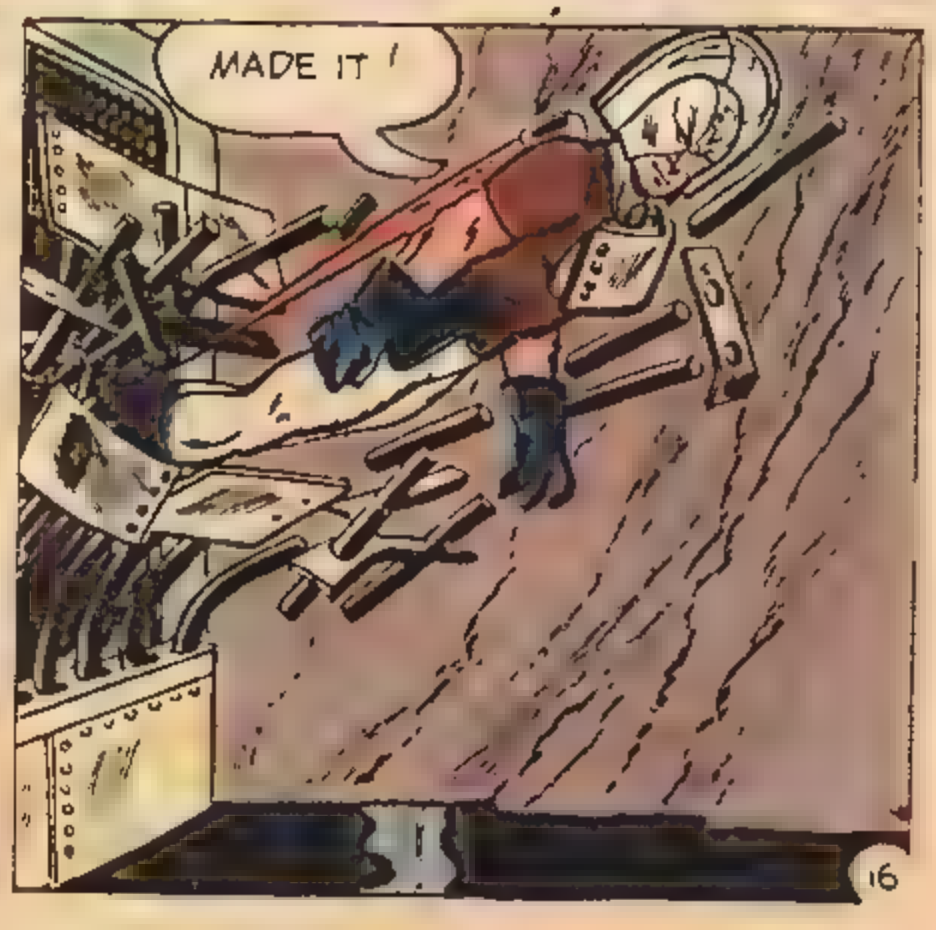


TURNING ON JET POWER - PEACEMAKER SCREAMS DOWN A CORRIDOR...



ANOTHER BARRIER LOOMS AHEAD! EVEN THE LASER-RAY CAN'T MELT IT AT THE SPEED HE'S ATTAINING... SO PEACEMAKER TURNS ON MAXIMUM THRUST AND SCREAMS TOWARD IT AT TRI-SONIC SPEED...





FIRE! DESTROY HIM UTTERLY!

I WORKED ON THAT WEAPON!

OUR AIM IS PERFECT... BUT HE IS BULLET PROOF!

EACH BULLET IS PAPIER MACHE! THEY WOULD NOT KILL A FLY!

IT IS THE PRISONER! FIRE THE CANNON! WE CANNOT MISS AT THIS RANGE!

LUCKY FOR ME I WORKED ON THAT TOO!

WITH HIS ARMS EMPIRE CRUMBLING, COL UZ SCREAMS ORDERS AT HIS UNDERLINGS

ANSWER, YOU FOOLS! WHAT

EVERYTHING IS HAPPENING, COL

PEACEMAKER HAS DEFIED ME! I WARNE HIM. NOW, YOU WILL SUFFER, MISS O'ROURKE!

ALTER THE NEXT PAGE

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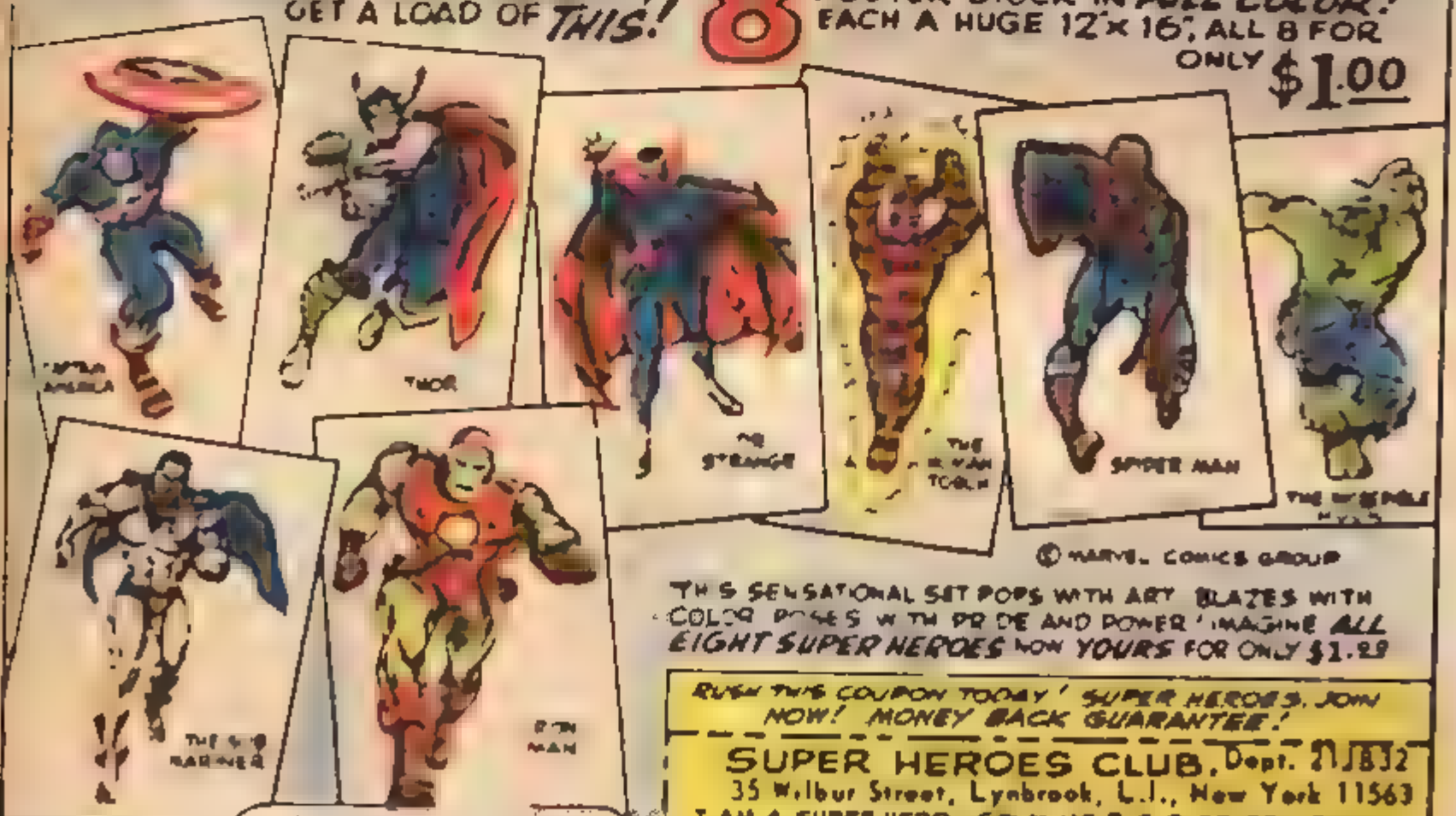

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NAME
of Super Hero and is a member in good standing of the Super Heroes Club and has my permission to use his name and picture.

MISS O'ROURKE, THE NEWEST ADDITION TO PEACEMAKER'S STAFF, DEFIES HIM BY HAVING 'MARSHALL ON THE FLOOR CLEAN HIM UP' AND AT ONCE THE [illegible] BEGINS TO SWEAT!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

[illegible]

PEACEMAKER! I SHOULD'VE KILLED YOU BACK AT YOUR CASTLE!

IT'S INCH THICK STEEL AND IT SLIDES CLOSED JUST AS PEACEMAKER TRIES TO HURTLE AFTER COL. UZ.

COL. UZ ISN'T DEFEATED! HE'S GOT A JET-FIGHTER EQUIPPED WITH POWERFUL ROCKETS! HE'S GOING TO USE THEM TO DESTROY HIS ENEMY!

THE WING ROCKETS WILL OBLITERATE WHATEVER
THE BUTTON...

I SHOULD'VE TOLD HIM ABOUT REWIRING THOSE

CAVES..., IN TEN SECONDS THEY SHOULD DETONATE...FIVE! FOUR! THREE! TWO! ONE!

WELL, I MUST SAY THESE FIRST HOURS IN YOUR EMPLOY HAVE BEEN.. ER... EXCITING!

AND THERE'S MORE TO COME, NORA— BUT NOT UNTIL I CHANGE AND WE HAVE DINNER IN THE VILLAGE.

THE END

The FIGHTIN' 5
CARD CARRIER

MIDNIGHT! THE BACK ALLEYS OF A COMMERCIAL ARTIST DISTRICT IN ROCHESTER, N.Y. ARE DESERTED, EXCEPT FOR THREE SILENT FIGURES WHO MOVE THROUGH THE DARK IN QUIET, DETERMINED STEPS! THEY MAKE THEIR WAY QUIETLY— TOO QUIETLY TO BE ENGAGED IN ANYTHING HONEST!!

WE'RE ALMOST THERE! NOW REMEMBER, WE'VE GOT TO MAKE THIS FAST!

WITHIN SECONDS THEY STAND BEHIND THE DARKENED OFFICE OF AN UP-STATE NEWS MAGAZINE..

PUBLISHING CO.

THE COAST IS CLEAR!

NOW! - TOSS THE PINEAPPLES!

PINS ARE PULLED AND THE TWO SMALL PACKAGES OF IMPENDING DESTRUCTION FLY TOWARD THE BUILDING.

Monty L. Fuchs

BUT UNKNOWN TO THE MALICIOUS MISCHIEF-MAKERS, FATE HAS PLACED A PASSING PATROL CAR NO MORE THAN THREE BLOCKS AWAY...

HEY! WHAT WAS THAT??

TOO LOUD FOR A CAR BACKFIRING! CAME FROM OVER IN THAT DIRECTION! WE'D BETTER HEAD FOR THAT GENERAL AREA!

BAM BAM

POLICE

A GENERAL DIRECTION GIVES WAY TO A SPECIFIC DESTINATION, AS TOWERING FLAMES GUIDE THE PATROLMEN TO THE SCENE...

YOU CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT! I'LL BE HEADING DOWN THAT ALLEY... THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING--LIKE SOMEONE ON THE RUN...

THEN...

...THERE THEY ARE!

STOP OR I'LL SHOOT!

A COP!! I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD MOVE FAST! BUT YOU HAD TO STOP AND WATCH THE PRETTY FLAMES!

I WANTED TO STOP AND MAKE SURE THE JOB WAS DONE RIGHT! BESIDES, WE AIN'T CAUGHT YET... SO JUST KEEP RUNNIN'!

THE FOOLS! THEY DON'T STOP! EVEN THESE SHOTS OVER THEIR HEADS DON'T SEEM TO CONVINCE 'EM THEY'RE IN PISTOL RANGE!

BUT MAYBE AFTER A FEW MORE...

BLAM BLAM

BUT IT'S OFTEN HARD TO BE SURE-FOOTED WHILE RUNNING THROUGH A DARKENED ALLEY...

OOF! DARN ARMED GATE!

YEOW! MY SHOULDER!

BLAM!

AND BY THE TIME THE OFFICER REGAINS HIS FOOTING...

GONE! LOOKS LIKE I TAUGHT ONE OF 'EM A LESSON, THOUGH ... BETTER GET BACK!

IT WAS THEM ALL RIGHT! BUT THEY GOT AWAY! DIDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK AT 'EM EITHER...WHAT'S THAT?

A MEMBERSHIP CARD! I COULD BE WRONG, BUT I THINK ONE OF THEM DROPPED IT!

TWO DAYS LATER THE CARD IS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., IN THE HAND OF HANK HENNESSEY...

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY CALLED *US* IN ON THE CASE!

THE BUILDING THAT WAS DESTROYED WAS THE MAIN OFFICE OF A CONSERVATIVE NEWS MAGAZINE! THEY HAVE WRITTEN COUNTLESS ARTICLES DENOUNCING COMMUNISTS...

IN ONE ARTICLE THEY CALLED AN UP-STATE LIBERAL POLITICAL GROUP NAMED THE MARCHERS A BUNCH OF PINKOS! AND THIS IS A MARCHER MEMBERSHIP CARD!

WELL THEN, THAT CINCHES IT, DOESN'T IT? THE MARCHERS ARE COMMIES!

NO! WE CAN'T BE CERTAIN THAT THE CARD WAS DROPPED BY ONE OF THE VANDALS...OR EVEN IF IT WAS, THAT DOESN'T PROVE THAT THE MARCHERS ARE COMMUNISTS! THOSE THREE COULD HAVE JUST WANTED TO GET BACK AT THE MAGAZINE FOR CALLING THEM PINKOS!

HOWEVER, WASHINGTON FEELS THAT THIS TIES IN TOO CLOSELY WITH THE RECENT REPORTS OF TWO WANTED SOVIET SPIES SEEN IN THE ROCHESTER AREA...

YOU MEAN, THEY THINK THE SPIES MAY BE WORKING WITH THE MARCHERS... OR POSSIBLY EVEN *CONTROLLING* THE ORGANIZATION?

THAT'S IT EXACTLY! AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO INVESTIGATE...AND SEE IF WE CAN BRING IN THE SPIES!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CARD, HANK? IT'S GOT A NAME ON IT, HASN'T IT?

YES...ROGER HEDDON...BUT UNFORTUNATELY, HE SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED! THE POLICE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR HIM!

IN ANY EVENT, WE'RE FLYING TO ROCHESTER TONIGHT...SONYA, I WANT YOU TO WEAR CIVVIES! YOU'LL BE TAKING A COMMERCIAL FLIGHT INSTEAD OF COMING WITH US IN THE JET.

YOU STILL HAVEN'T EXPLAINED WHY SONYA'S GETTING THE SPECIAL TREATMENT! YOU'RE NOT PLANNING TO LET THAT LITTLE COMMIE DO THE UNDERCOVER WORK, ARE YUH?

I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING ONCE WE GET THERE, GRANITE!

IN ROCHESTER, THE FIGHTIN' FIVE CHECK INTO A HOTEL, THEN MEET IN HANK'S ROOM, WHERE THEY WAIT UNTIL A KNOCK COMES TO THE DOOR...

NO ONE SAW YOU COME HERE, DID THEY?

NO! EVERYTHING WORKED OUT PERFECTLY! I'VE GOT A ROOM RIGHT DOWN THE HALL!

GOOD! AFTER THIS ONE MEETING, YOU'LL COMMUNICATE WITH THE REST OF US, ONLY BY RADIO... EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.

OKAY, HERE'S HOW WE'LL PLAY THE GAME! SONYA'S GOING TO JOIN THE MARCHERS, WHILE...

I *KNEW* IT! HANK, HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MARBLES OR JUST PAWNED THEM? YOU'RE PLAYING RIGHT INTO HER HANDS!

GRANITE, *HOW LONG* DOES IT TAKE YOU BEFORE YOU TRUST SOMEONE?

IN YOUR CASE, QUITE AWHILE, SISTER! I STILL HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE BUG YOU SEWED ON MY JACKET! IF YOU ASK ME, ONCE A COMMIE, ALWAYS A COMMIE!

HOLD IT, YOU TWO! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ANYWHERE ARGUING! IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN, *I'M THE* LEADER OF THIS GROUP!

SONYA IS THE ONE WHO'S BEST SUITED FOR THIS MISSION! AS A FORMER COMMUNIST SHE KNOWS THE REDS' METHOD OF OPERATION, SO ONCE INSIDE THE ORGANIZATION SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE MUCH TROUBLE FIGURING OUT IF THE SOVIETS ARE RUNNING IT OR NOT!

FURTHERMORE, THERE'S LESS CHANCE OF HER BEING FOUND OUT! THE FIGHTIN' FIVE ARE WELL KNOWN! SOME PEOPLE MAY EVEN SUSPECT THAT WE'LL BE INVESTIGATING THE MARCHERS! BUT VERY FEW PEOPLE KNOW THAT WE NOW HAVE A GIRL ON OUR TEAM!

5

HOWEVER, SONYA, I'M NOT READY TO GIVE YOU FREE REIGN! YOU'RE GOING TO WEAR A COUPLE OF MONITORING DEVICES... THROUGH WHICH WE'LL WATCH THE WHOLE THING!

NOW, AS FOR THE REST OF YOU...

4

CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

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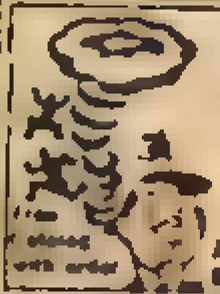

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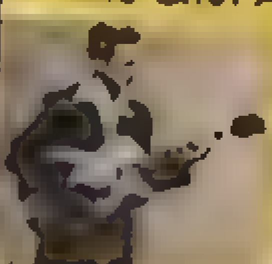

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THAT EVENING...

OKAY, HANK! HERE I AM, READY TO JOIN THE RANKS!

SO FAR, EVERYONE WHO'S GONE IN HAS BEEN IN THE COLLEGE AGE BRACKET OR THEREABOUTS! THEY PROBABLY HAVE GOOD INTENTIONS, TOO!

Tonite MARCH NEWBERG DRIVE

SEEMS LIKE THE YOUNG AND IDEALISTIC ARE THE INNOCENT PAWNS OF SOMETHING ROTTEN LIKE THIS!

HMMM! IT'S COMMENTS LIKE THIS THAT MAKE ME WONDER ABOUT HER! IT *SOUNDS* LIKE SHE'S REALLY CONCERNED, BUT THEY'RE JUST A LITTLE BIT TOO PUT ON!

MEANWHILE, THE DELICIOUS BISCUIT BAKERS BOYS ARE BACK IN THE ALLEYS AGAIN...

THIS ONE'S GONNA BE A BIT ROUGHER! THERE'LL BE PEOPLE AROUND! JUST MAKE SURE NO ONE GETS ~~~! I DON'T WANT A MURDER RAP IF I'M CAUGHT.

ALL RIGHT! WE'LL SHOOT FROM HERE! ACCORDING TO THE BOSS, ALL THE WORKERS ARE AROUND FRONT, LOADING THE TRUCKS! SO NOBODY *SHOULD* GET HURT!

FFWUP

HANK HAD IT FIGURED RIGHT!... SINCE THE MAGAZINE DIDN'T STOP PUBLICATION WHEN THE MAIN OFFICE WAS DESTROYED, NOW THE BADDIES ARE GONNA BOMB THE PRINT SHOP!

AND THE FIRST THING I'VE GOT TO DO IS STOP THEM! THIS IS GONNA BE A TRICKY ONE!

SAY, THERE'S ONLY TWO OF 'EM! GUESS THE SHOULDER WOUND KEPT THE OTHER FELLA FROM PARTICI-PATING!

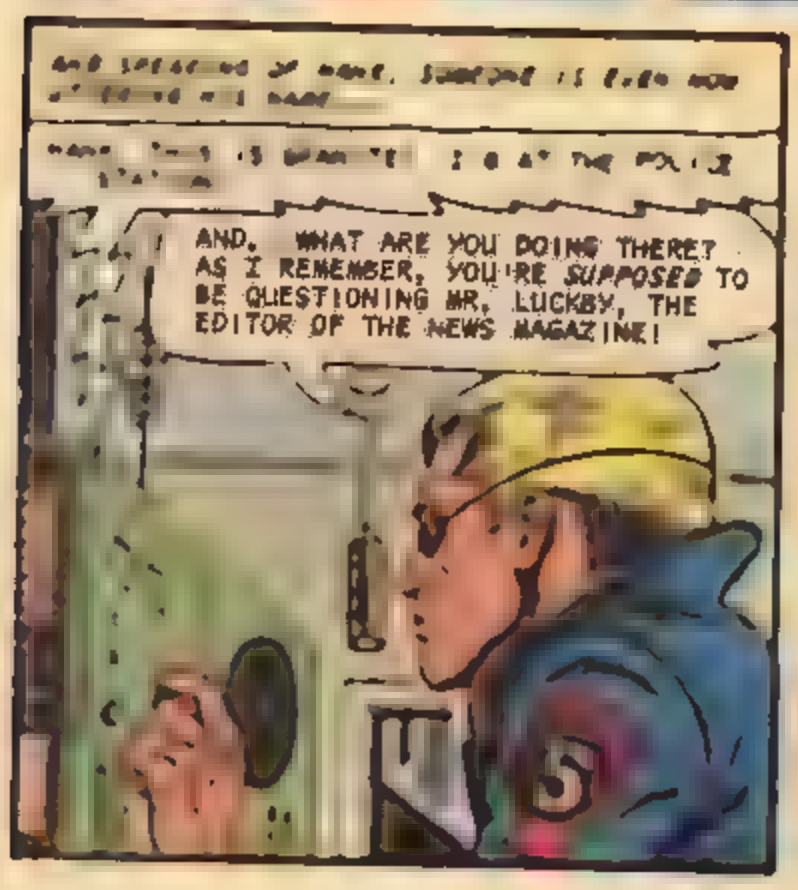
WHA-?

AND!

GIVING UP!
SEEM TO MAKE
GAININ' ON US!
DO IT!

UP TO THE NICKNAME, THE
FOX!

LEAD ME RIGHT TO THE


I 0 A* THE POLICE
AND, WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE? AS I REMEMBER, YOU'RE *SUPPOSED* TO BE QUESTIONING MR. LUCKBY, THE EDITOR OF THE NEWS MAGAZINE!

FACE DOWN IN THE GENESSEE RIVER!
IN THE SHOULDER...RIGHT
THE VANDALS

THEY'RE PERFORMING AN AUTOPSY NOW! I'LL RADIO BACK AS SOON AS THEY FINISH!

OH, AND BY THE WAY, HOW'S OUR LITTLE UNDERCOVER AGENT MAKING OUT? YOU KNOW, THE ONE WHO'S SORT OF PRETENDING TO BE WHAT SHE REALLY IS!

AFTER THAT COMMENT, MR. GALLERO, YOU'RE LUCKY TO GET ANY ANSWER *AT ALL*, BUT...AS A MATTER OF FACT, SHE'S MAKING OUT HER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION RIGHT NOW!

AND JUST BEFORE YOU CALLED, SHE TOLD ME THERE'S TO BE A SPECIAL MEETING IN HALF AN HOUR... FOR ALL NEW APPLICANTS TO MEET THE BIG-WIGS!!

MEANWHILE, FRENCHY HAS BEEN LEAD TO AN UNPOPULATED AREA NEAR TWO OLD, ABANDONED FACTORY BUILDINGS...WHERE...

A MANHOLE?? THEY'RE SURE MAKING THIS DIFFICULT ON ME!

OH WELL, GUESS I SHOULD WAIT A FEW MINUTES AND THEN...FOLLOW 'EM IN!

THUS...

HERE GOES NOTHING!

HMPH! NOTHING IS RIGHT! THERE'S NOTHING DOWN THERE BUT AN EMPTY CELL...BUT THOSE TWO MUST HAVE GONE SOMEWHERE!

MAYBE THERE'S A BUTTON OR SOMETHING ON ONE OF THE WALLS...SOMETHING TELLS ME I SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS, BUT...HEY, WHAT'S THIS?

THEN, AS ONE ENTIRE WALL SWIFTLY SWINGS OPEN...

WELL, WELL, WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A VISITOR! AND UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS IT'S ONE OF THE FIGHTIN' FIVE! FRENCHY, I BELIEVE!

ULP!! WHAT HAVE I WALKED INTO...THESE FELLOWS HAVE SOVIET SPY WRITTEN ALL OVER THEM! NOW WHAT?

END PART ONE

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